

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 03981 161424Z

44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 DODE-00 PM-07 L-03 NEA-10 EB-11 USPS-02 RSR-01

/077 W

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R 161216Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8112

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 3981

FOLLOWING TELEGRAMS FROM USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY SENT ACTION TO JCS WASH DC//J-1// INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS BELGIUM, AMEMBASSY BONN GERMANY, AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE NETHERLANDS, USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS BELGIUM, USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM, USDEL MC, CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY, CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG, GERMANY, USAFPCS EUR/ME RGN RHEIN/MAIN AB GERMANY, NATO/ SHAPE SUPPORT GROUP(US) BELGIUM AND HQ USAFPCS ALEXANDRIA VA//DO R 141846Z JUL 73 BEING REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ECJA-P 11522

SUBJECT: BELGIAN CUSTOMS TO BE APPLIED TO US APO MAIL & PARCELS (U)

- A. AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS MSG 061643Z JUL 73 (NOTAL)
- B. AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS MSG 111745Z JUL 73 (NOTAL)
- C. AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE MSG 101625Z JUL 73 (NOTAL)
- D. AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 121755Z JUL 73 (NOTAL)

1. (C) REFERENCE A-D (PASEP) CONTAIN BACKGROUND INFORMATION. THIS HQ FINDS NO BASIS TO DISAGREE OR CONTEND THE LEGAL ANALYSIS SET FORTH IN REF A. CONCUR IN APPROACH SUGGESTION REF D TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION BEFORE ENGAGING IN FORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH BELGIANS.
2. (C) THE PROCEDURES WHICH APPEAR TO BE INTENDED BY BELGIAN CUSTOMS CONTROL AUTHORITIES ARE MORE STRINGENT THAN THOSE EXERCISED IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES OPERATING UNDER ARTICLE XI OF NATO SOFA. IF INTENDED PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED, OR THERE IS EVEN SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE

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THEREWITH, THIS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CAUSE CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE

DELAYS IN PROCESSING AND DELIVERY OF MAIL WHICH WOULD HAVE DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON MORALE OF PERSONNEL. THIS WOULD BE COMPOUNDED IF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES FOLLOW SUIT.

E. (C) FULL INFORMATION REGARDING EXPERIENCE IN MANAGEMENT OF APO'S IN OTHER NATO COUNTRIES IS HIGHLY RELEVANT IN DEVELOPING APPROACH TO BELGIANS. COMPONENT COMMANDS BEING INSTRUCTED BY SEPARATE MESSAGE TO PROVIDE ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION TO THIS HQ AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FURTHER USEUCOM VIEWS. MEANWHILE RECOMMEND STATE/DOD BE REQUESTED GIVE CONSIDERATION BROADER IMPLICATIONS THIS PROBLEM WITH VIEW TOWARD FORMULATING POLITICAL BASIS FOR APPROACH TO BELGIANS.
GDS DECLAS DATE 79

UNQUOTE
BOOCHEVER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 16 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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